24th January 1933]

A.—(*a*) *to* (*c*) The Government have no information on the subject except that they have perused the following paragraph in a report of the Irrigation Committee of the Tinnevelly District Association, dated 2nd January 1933, of which a copy has been received by Government:—

"*Paragraph XV*.—In the Ryots' Irrigation Conference the Executive Engineer was requested to investigate the question of disafforestation that was reported to be going on to a considerable and alarming extent primarily in the Singampati zamin hills and to a certain extent in the Government hills also forming the catchment basin of the upper portion of the Tambraparni river. He has agreed to do it. The Committee will keep itself in touch with the result of the investigation and consider if any further steps have to be taken."

(*d*) The question will be considered if a report is received.

Minor Irrigation

Maramat to the Rajakalmangalam tank and channel in the Tinnevelly district.

* 480 *Q*.—Mr. M. Devadasan: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Rajakalmangalam tank and channel in Tinnevelly district have had any general maramat at any time since the British advent;

(*b*) whether the ryots under that tank or under Sengulam lower down have petitioned the authorities concerned for the repair of the same;

(*c*) how long these petitions have been pending;

(*d*) whether the Government realize the imminence and urgency of the repairs prayed for;

(*e*) if so, what action the authorities have taken in the matter; and

(*f*) whether the tank and channel are under the Minor Irrigation Department or the Public Works Department?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*e*) The Government have not the information. No petitions have been received by the Government in recent years. A report has been called for.

(*f*) They are minor irrigation works in charge of the Revenue Department.

Mr. M. Devadasan:—"May I know whether the Government propose to give any help for the repair of this anicut? They say that they have no information. Will they be pleased to call for it?"

The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—"We have called for a report, Sir."